

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

The meeting was called to order by Representative Kathleen Sebelius at \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 1992 in room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Rand Rock - Excused  
Representative Clyde Graeber - Excused Representative Sherman Jones - Excused  
Representative Joan Hamilton - Excused  
Representative Joan Wagon - Excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Torrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Lynne Holt, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Connie Craig, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Chair Sebelius called the meeting to order, and began with requests for bill introduction.

Ron Hein, Kansas Charities Cooperative, requested legislation allowing bingo parlors to sell instant bingo games.

Representative Douville made a motion to introduce legislation allowing instant, pull-tab bingo. Representative Ramirez made a second to the motion, which passed on a voice vote.

Chair Sebelius explained to the Committee that today's meeting would be a briefing on the coed prison in Kansas, and gave to each member an newspaper article on the issue, Attachment #1.

Marla Sikes appeared before the Committee to talk about the coed prison in Kansas, Attachment #2.

Questions from the Committee:

1. What was your experience when you surfaced complaints and what happened with your situation?
2. You left in June, 1991?
3. Are some of the alleged perpetrators, particularly the staff, still there?
4. Why were male guards scheduled to be in the shower area?
5. Why do you believe the prison appeal system does not work?
6. How many women are involved in this situation?
7. Are there women guards with men prisoners? And if there are, is this the basis for the civil rights allegations?

Chair Sebelius introduced Amy Bixler to speak on behalf of Colleen Kelly Johnston, Attachment #3.

Questions from the Committee:

1. How do we keep the male guards from the women, if we do not keep the women guards from the male inmates?

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

room 526-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 1992

Secretary Gary Stotts, Kansas Department of Corrections, appeared before the Committee and gave a brief history of the co-correctional program in Kansas. He stated that they have implemented some changes in the operation by separating male and female inmates during meals, recreation, and most programs, in an effort to limit the opportunity for unauthorized contact. He added that SB 556, introduced this Session, would make it a felony offense for a correction employee or employees of a contractor providing services in a correctional facility to engage in sexual relations with an inmate or a parolee, consensual or otherwise.

Questions from the Committee:

1. How many male and female inmates in the co-correctional program are currently at Lansing, and what is the ratio of male and/or female guards?
2. Are all of these women in maximum security?
3. Are there specific screening criteria for determining which men will be housed there?
4. Has screening criteria been discussed to develop additional screening criteria recognizing that this is a somewhat unique situation?
5. Has it been proposed since 1989 that you have all of the women together? Has there been a budget? Do you have something in the budget this year that would accomplish that?
6. What kind of timetable and options are you thinking of to separate these prisoners?
7. Can you respond to male security guards constitutional rights being violated?
8. How much contact do male and female inmates actually have together in with each other?
9. How do you investigate inappropriate activities?
10. When the ACA came in 1990 for their accreditation interviews, census at Lansing was 100 men and 100 women. With the dramatic shift in the number of men and women inmates in the past two years, has the number of complaints alleging sexual misconduct risen?
11. Has an independent investigation been done?
12. Are we revisiting our guard training program, and talking to people about what is appropriate behavior in this area?
13. When was the Sex Offender Program initiated and at what facilities?
14. How many people are incarcerated at Lansing with the women in the Sex Offender Program?
15. Have you ever seen any of materials handed out today before?
16. Why don't you have women physicians for these women?

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS,  
room 526-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 1992

17. If we enact sentencing guidelines, are we going to continue sex offender program?
18. How many states have mandatory HIV testing for inmates?

Chair Sebelius asked Secretary Stotts to come back in three weeks and report on how far plans have advanced to move these women.

Chair Sebelius adjourned the meeting.



4A THE WICHITA EAGLE Tuesday, February 4, 1992

# The Wichita Eagle

Established 1872

Incorporating The Wichita Beacon

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## Coed prison Kansas must look again at policy and then stop it

In the 1970s federal officials began experimenting with putting male and female prisoners in the same facility. Studies have shown that in some cases the arrangement has improved inmate behavior. In the 1980s Kansas began housing both sexes at the prison in Lansing as a means to deal with prison overcrowding. What happened is that there have been 16 prison pregnancies at Lansing since 1985.

Sen. Gus Bogina, R-Shawnee, wants the corrections department to revise its coed-prison policy. Department spokesman Bill Miskell has said prison officials should take a second look at the program.

Look or no look, the situation should stop. Currently at Lansing there are 40 maximum-security female inmates and 200 minimum-security males. Most of the men are sex offenders. That's right — most are sex offenders. There are five men to every woman. They work, eat and spend leisure hours together. And in the last six years, 16 of the women got pregnant.

Some prisoners — male and female — may think the current arrangement is swell. Some may even behave better in a coed prison. Some women who got pregnant may have agreed to sex.

None of that means much, however, when there are 16 pregnancies at the prison, the costs of which are most certainly paid by the state. None of that means much, however, if any of the 40 women had to endure the unwanted sexual demands of another prisoner. The irony is that some of those women prisoners are at Lansing because of crimes they committed against abusive partners.

It's difficult to believe that any of the positives that come out of coed prisons outweigh the fact that 16 women were impregnated at Lansing. National Organization for Women leader Colleen Kelly Johnston of Wichita is absolutely right. There's "no reason on Earth why males and females" should be imprisoned together.

House Federal & State Affairs  
February 12, 1992  
Attachment #1

## INTRODUCTION

First of all, I would like to thank Kathleen Sebelius for asking me to come here today and speak.

I feel that the issues I will raise today are long over-due for action and you are the people that can manifest the changes. I am also thankful to be here speaking because for the first time publicly, besides the Wichita Times article, I am not being told what I can say and what I cannot say.

So I am here to share with you what I know. I resigned from my position with Correctional Medical Systems June 27, 1991. I am not a state employee nor do I aspire to be a state employee, so I am not concerned with retribution. In other words, my livelihood is not dependent on the state.

I cannot disclose any of the inmates' names to you that shared their experiences with me in therapy. I have an ethical obligation of confidentiality and I have legitimate concerns of retribution toward the inmates from the Dept. of Corrections.

I consider my year of employment at Lansing Correctional Facility or as it is so affectionately referred to by guards and sex offenders as "HOOKER HILL", the BEST and WORST year of my life. I truly learned the meaning of corruption or what is more popularly known as a "GOOD O'L BUDDY SYSTEM". I will tell you that they picked the right women for the job but the wrong women to try and intimidate. What I experienced and what the women at LCF continue to experience, has changed my life forever.

I am going to assume that everyone here has read the article that I wrote for the december issue of the NOW, Wichita Times. I will further expose attitudes, behaviors and incidents that I consider unacceptable in any environment. And my criticisms are based on common sense,

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February 12, 1992  
Attachment # 2*

principles of equality and my own personal experience as a therapist at Lansing.

Some of subject matter may make you feel uncomfortable and the language in the letters may offend you.

However, they are meant to enlighten you and help you become aware of the REALITY of Lansing.

BROCHURE

This brochure will provide you with statistics that are imperative to understanding the ramifications of abuse. There is also an explanation of the Second Chance Program

ABUSE--DEFINITION

This definition is provided so that we may all understand the meaning of abuse, so that it is not ambiguous. And I would ask that you keep in mind the definition as you review the papers that follow and listen to what I have to say.

I feel that this system, reinforces abuse, it fosters corruption.

Victims of abuse are intimidated, oppressed, threatened and kept isolated. Thus the victimization can continue.

ex: a family (system) that contains abuse will foster that abuse. The only intervention is from the outside.

IN OTHER WORDS, A SYSTEM THAT INVESTIGATES ITSELF CANNOT CORRECT ITSELF --- AND THIS IS HOW THE DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS OPERATES.

PSYCHOLOGY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

This paper is to explain the ideology behind the therapy when working with women. And I ask that you read the italicized paragraph #2.

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2-12-92  
2-2

LETTER

This letter should give you an idea of how needed and useful the Second Chance program is.

"NORMAL ENVIRONMENT"

There have been statements made, explicitly on the news episode, "Jailhouse Sex", that this is a normal environment and it is alluded that the women and sex offenders have normal relationships.

I will tell you right now they do not have normal relationships. Their relationships are ABUSIVE. There is definitely verbal abuse and I will even say verbal assault. There is physical abuse. (Examples) And there is sexual abuse.

The sex offenders as a group have pathological problems in the area of sexuality period. And they are put with the women in which they are continually acting out those inappropriate sexual behaviors.

And I will further add, that there are guards at this facility who also act out inappropriate sexual behaviors on the women.

LETTER 1

The first letter is written by a rapist to a female inmate that he impregnated. He was sent back to KSP as punishment for impregnating her.

LETTER 2 Is also from a rapist to the same pregnant inmate.

This clearly shows the attitude of the sex offenders in regards to the women.

THIS IS A SEXUALLY CHARGED ENVIRONMENT. SEX IS BARTERED FOR GOODS, FAVORS AND TREATMENT. EVERYONE WILL ADAPT TO THEIR ENVIROMENT TO GET THEIR NEEDS MET.

And in the long run, the only ones that are benefiting from this environment are the SEX OFFENDERS AND THE GUARDS.

HF/SA  
2-12-92  
2-3



The women defocus from themselves and do not participate in any self-help because the male dominates them.

And I also realized that some of the women are stuck in a cycle of staying maximum custody because they are involved with the men and are getting disciplinary reports. Too many Disciplinary reports keep them at maximum custody level. If the men were not there, I wonder how many of the women would be able to move through the system and work on their self.

#### GUARDS

The January 1992 article in the Wichita Times states that it would be impossible to remove male guards from the female bath and toilet areas without adversely affecting the civil rights of the male prison guards.

I would like to tell you that as part of my training, I was sent to Raleigh, North Carolina. Upon my visit to two female prisons I noticed, no male guards within the compounds. I asked about this phenomena and was told by the All FEMALE COMMAND MANAGER, that the male guards were not allowed within the fence. They could operate the gate and they could be assigned to transportation. And the female guards do not work in the male prison.

AND SO I ASK THIS COMMITTEE, WHY ARE THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF GUARDS IN KANSAS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

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2-4

I believe there is no difference. And I will strongly state that the male guards and the sex offenders have no right, being in the womens' business.

LETTERS there are two statements from female inmates that describe incidents.

And the Zimbardo Experiment is an FYI paper

RAPE---the definition is provided so that there is no ambiguity.

THESE WOMEN ARE UNDER DURESS, AND I WILL TELL YOU THAT CONSENT DOES NOT CO-EXIST WITH DURESS. SHE IS IN A COMPROMISING POSITION JUST BY THE MERE FACT THAT SHE IS HOUSED WITH THE MEN AND CONTROLLED BY MALE GUARDS.

1. Is the female inmate and the guard meeting on equal ground to both consent to sex?

THIS IS CLEARLY AN ABUSE OF POWER. HE/SHE IS USING THEIR POSITION, OR UNIFORM TO GET THEIR NEEDS MET.

As far as the female inmate is concerned, I do not believe it is a matter of DO I WANT TO--IT'S A MATTER OF --WHAT HAPPENS TO ME IF I DON'T. WHAT IS THE LESSER OF THE TWO EVILS.

And I will add to this ABUSE OF POWER OR AUTHORITY AS WE SEE WRITTEN UNDER THE DEFINITION OF ABUSE : that the military incarcerates their officers for fraternizing with enlisted personnel.

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I will also tell you that North Carolina has a guard going to trial right now with more than one count of rape and drug charges.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT PART OF THE WOMENS' SENTENCING INCLUDED BEING A CONSORT OR CONCUBINE FOR THE SEX OFFENDERS OR GUARDS.

In the statement marked #4, the woman claims to have been raped at LCF. The woman who wrote statement #3 also claimed she had been raped by a guard, but at the Topeka facility. That guard was fired for inappropriate sexual behaviors with other women. There is also a third woman who may possibly come forward who claims she was raped by an inmate and conceived a child as a product of that rape.

Is the female inmate meeting the sex offender on equal ground to consent to sex? They are both inmates, however, he can lure her and promise her items of necessity that she cannot afford.

#### DISCREPANCIES

The Wichita Eagle and Beacon; I would like to comment on some of the statements in this article.

1. Some women get pregnant on leaves.

SINCE WHEN DO MAXIMUM SECURITY INMATES GET FURLOUGHS?

One woman left LCF to go to Wichita Work Release. It was discovered there that she was pregnant and so they sent her back to LCF where she was impregnated.

The year I was at LCF inwhich there were 5 pregnancies, only one woman had a furlough and she was minimum custody and she did not return pregnant.

I'm bored with the excuse that federal prisons put men and women together.

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1. FEDERAL PRISONERS ARE WHITE COLLAR CRIMINALS.
2. DID THEY PUT MAXIMUM CUSTODY LEVEL INMATES TOGETHER?
3. DID THEY PUT SEX OFFENDERS WITH THE WOMEN?

Male inmates caught breaking the rules are sent back to an all male prison. YES, BUT THOSE SAME MEN WERE ALSO RETURNED TO LCF AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS PASSED.

AND I WILL INFORM YOU THAT THE GUARD THAT IMPREGNATED THE FEMALE INMATE IN 1991, WAS NOT AND I REPEAT WAS NOT FIRED! He collected his salary for several months. He also packed this woman's belongings and escorted her to the segregation unit to serve out her punishment for being pregnant. It was also common knowledge that this guard was having sex with other female inmates. This guard resigned, he went to the warden and deputy warden at KSP and admitted being the father. Then the Dept. of Corrections did a wonderful thing.

They okayed a mother and baby bonding program. The guard was allowed to bring the baby up to the prison so that the mother could spend 3 hours, 3 days a week with the baby for 6 weeks. It is interesting to note here that a baby will bond with the primary caregiver, the adult that spends the majority of time with it.

Tax dollars paid for his salary, to keep her incarcerated, to pay for the baby's delivery and what staff was needed for the baby bonding program. The program was halted after I complained about the guard.

The Department of Corrections reports 16 pregnancies since 1985. How many babies have been conceived since 1980-81?

DO THESE STATISTICS INCLUDE THE WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN IMPREGNATED TWICE WHILE INCARCERATED?

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And my last comment on this article is; I told the auditors from the American Correctional Association what I saw as problems. And why should the inmates tell them anything.

These next two statements are from female inmates regarding the medical abuse that was described in my December Wichita Times article. I would also like to add that complaints were also recieved by male inmates about the medical examinations.

#### INEQUALITIES

This advisory board letter to Steve Davies sums up and points out reasons why the women should be removed from LCF. I would like to point out the large paragraph on page 2. The statement that the women have limited programs at LCF, paragraph 3. And that there are definite issues of parity between the men and the women.

And on the third page of this letter, the advisory board refers to the women working in the "private sector" and that would be the Zephyr-Heatron factory. I received numerous complaints from the women regarding their treatment at Zephyr-Heatron. I was told by my supervisor to stay away from that subject. I was not to ask anything about it or try and discuss it. So the next inmate statement contains the same complaints that I had heard many times. And I believe that this practice of having the inmates in the community should be investigated. And not by the Department of Corrections.

As I stated earlier and will state again; A SYSTEM THAT INVESTIGATES ITSELF CANNOT CORRECT ITSELF.

And the decisions that are sent down from the administration do not address the needs of the women, they are based on the male inmate population. WOMEN CANNOT DOUCHE!

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I will also tell you that the grievance system does not work effectively, it is one-sided leaning toward the guards favor.

If grievances are filed, the guard in question is shown the grievance or told about it, he in turn can act out harassment or hostilities.

Grievances get lost many times.

And if the grievance is about sex and a guard, the inmate is treated like we treat our rape victims--it was her fault.

Inmates are also told that their grievance has been lost and that they must write another one.

Grievances are sometimes not responded to in the amount of time allotted by the administration.

#### SOCIAL RAMIFICATIONS

These inmates WILL return to society one day.

A majority of these women were single mothers before they were incarcerated, some of them are coming out single mothers and some of those women have other children at home. The men that impregnated them are not paying child support and will probably not be available to help rear the child. These women are also going back into society and taking with them all the injustices that they have collected while in prison and they are going to try and raise their children. There are also little or no re-integration programs for the women to return to society;

The sex offenders are not getting rehabilitated. It is my understanding that they have the highest recidivism rate and I do know that 5 years of therapy is only the beginning.

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS IS DICTATING TO THESE WOMEN WHO THEY WILL PROCREATE WITH.

I FEEL THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HAS CREATED A NEGATIVE DRAIN ON SOCIETY. THE WOMEN ARE DEPENDENT ON THE

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STATE, AND THOSE THAT CONCEIVE WHILE INCARCERATED ARE CONTINUALLY DEPENDENT ON THE STATE FOR ASSISTANCE.

#### LIABILITIES

No one seems to want to address the issue of HIV-AIDS.

1. There is no mandatory HIV testing of inmates.

These inmates at LCF are copulating without any safe sex practices. They are a HIGH RISK POPULATION. There will be future liabilities.

#### DOLLARS AND SENSE

This program cost \$137,206. When Correctional Medical Systems' realized that their contract would not be renewed (Jan. 91) my budget was frozen.

And I feel that the state employess (guards) did everything they could to sabotage the program.

#### SOLUTIONS

1. The IDEAL situation would be for all the women to be at one facility and secured by female guards.
2. There should be a female administrator in the Topeka office that can address the needs of the female population, display foresight, equality and ethics.
3. A Committe, a panel some governing body that is not a product of the Department of Corrections that can investigate the inmates' complaints of sexual abuse and assess accountability of the state employees.

SEPARATING THE INMATES AT CHOW AND RECREATIONAL TIME IS A DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS "DOG AND PONY" SHOW.

This is a strategic maneuver for visitors.

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QUESTIONS

1. Because we have people under our control and power , do we have the right to do what we want to them?

2. Do the guards have a right to impose their own idea of punishment?

3. People are punished because they victimized others. Why should the inmates desire rehabilitation when they see the people in control not held accountable for their actions.

THIS SITUATION OF WOMEN BEING HOUSED WITH SEX OFFENDERS WHO ARE ABLE TO ACT OUT THEIR OWN INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS AS WELL AS THE GUARDS IS A POWER STRUCTURE. THE WOMEN ARE VIRTUALLY SET-UP TO BE MANIPULATED SEXUALLY AND HARASSED SEXUALLY. THE GUARDS AND THE SEX OFFENDERS DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO ACT OUT THEIR SEXUAL FANTASIES OR POWER PLAYS ON THESE WOMEN.

IN CONCLUSION:

I hope that you all have a working knowledge of ABUSE. And I hope that you acknowledge and react to the price we are all paying for this unwarranted situation that has occured out of a lack of forethought and devaluation of the female gender.

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**a·bus·age** (ə byoo'sij), *n.* improper use of words; unidiomatic or ungrammatical language. [1540-50]

**a·buse** (v. ə byooz'; *n.* ə byoos'), *v.*, **a·bused**, **a·bus·ing**, *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to use wrongly or improperly; misuse: *to abuse one's authority*. 2. to treat in a harmful or injurious way: *to abuse a horse; to abuse one's eyesight*. 3. to speak insultingly or harshly to or about; revile. 4. to commit sexual assault upon. 5. *Obs.* to deceive or mislead. —*n.* 6. wrong, improper, or excessive use; misuse: *the abuse of privileges; drug abuse*. 7. harshly or coarsely insulting language. 8. bad or improper treatment; maltreatment. 9. a corrupt or improper practice or custom. 10. rape or sexual assault. 11. *Obs.* deception. —*Idiom.* 12. **abuse oneself**, to masturbate. [1400-50; late ME < MF *abuser*, *v.* der. of *abus* < L *abūsus* misuse, wasting = *abūt(i)* to use up, misuse (*ab-* *ab-* + *ūt(i)* to use) + *-tus* suffix of *v. action*] —**a·bus'able** (-zə bəl), *adj.* —**a·bus'er**, *n.* —**Syn.** ABUSE, CENSURE, INVECTIVE all mean strongly expressed disapproval. ABUSE implies an outburst of harsh and scathing words, often against one who is defenseless: *abuse directed against an opponent*. CENSURE implies blame, adverse criticism, or condemnation: *severe censure of her bad judgment*. INVECTIVE applies to strong but formal denunciation in speech or print, often in the public interest: *invective against graft*.

## PSYCHOLOGY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Need to learn to be both advocates and therapists by providing warmth, support, validation, and re-empowerment of their clients.

Victims of violence need to be encouraged to take control of their lives and learning to share control of their therapy is a beginning step toward that goal.

Cultural factors including institutions that provide ineffective responses to protect women and children or promote traditional sociocultural norms that devalue women maintain the violence.

Learned helplessness can be prevented by psychologically strengthening the potential victims or reversed by empowerment through additional competence training and skill-building activities.

The goal of re-empowerment is through additional competence rather than adjustment or merely continue personal growth without first working through and integrating the victimizing experience. In order to move from victim to survivor some women must experience some supportive therapy which validates their perceptions. This helps victims to regain the belief in their own ability to keep themselves as safe as possible in future situations.

Women victims of violence cannot understand neutrality. Their heightened sense of danger and realistic need for safety causes them to categorize would-be helpers as either "with" or "against" them, and those who try to be neutral are seen as being "against" them. They are only able to

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relax and build a trusting relationship with a therapist who advocates for them. This effect is most pronounced when the abuser is someone who also has loved them.

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2-14

# Charges of women prisoners' abuse get quick response

Marla Sikes' story in the December issue of the *Wichita NOW Times*, "Women at Lansing dehumanized, reduced to sex objects", has met with unusually quick response from some Kansas legislators.

Personalized letters and a copy of the issue were sent to every Kansas state senator and representative. Action was requested to correct the situation during the 1992 session.

Other Wichita NOW members took their own action. Elaine Bates cut and pasted her article and photocopied it for her church meeting so that others could write immediate letters to the governor. James Johnston also sent copies to Governor Joan Finney, House Speaker Marvin Barkis, SRS Administrator Donna Whiteman and House Majority Leader Tom Sawyer.

To date, three state senators and five representatives have responded.

Sen. August Bogina (R-Shawnee) suspected when the Second Chance program was passed in the legislature it would be subject to abuse and was deeply concerned. His was the first response to KWCH-TV 12 programs and the *NOW Times* article.

Sen. Edward Reilly (R-Leavenworth) and Sen. Audrey Langworthy (R-Prairie Village) also wrote. Reilly promised action in the 1992 session and Langworthy sent a copy of a FAX transmittal to the State Corrections Administrator, who was sent a copy of the *NOW Times* article and request to respond to the charges included.

Rep. Tom Love (D-KC) called after making a personal trip to the Lansing facility and talking to the prison administrator, Steve Davies. Davies covered up any possible problems and denied having received any substantive report from Ms. Jennie Lancaster, a specialist in corrections from North Carolina who was quoted in the KWCH series. Davies also glossed over any problems with pregnancies. He told Rep. Love that it was impossible to remove male guards from the female bath and toilet areas at the prison without adversely affecting the civil rights of the male prison guards.

Hearings on the charges against the prison officials will probably be scheduled in the House Federal and State Affairs Committee due to efforts of Reps. Kathleen Sebelius and Joan Wagnon (Democrats-Topeka). Others responding to the article and letter from Wichita NOW were Rep. Elizabeth Baker (R-Derby), and Rep. Dion Smith (D-Dodge City), and Rep. John Solback (D-Lawrence), House Judiciary Committee chair.

~~nonawarance~~  
What were the hot items at

JAN. 92

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At Appox 7:30 Sat March 9. I was sitting on the couch in the day room in pod 4. No one else was in the day room. CO I Clatterbuck came in to the Pod. He approached me. He was talking to me and said, "I will get a piece of Ass Before you leave". I proceeded to turn around and said Fuck You.

1 On approx July 20<sup>th</sup> 1990 at LCFE in Segregation Unit, I was locked in my seg cell doing disciplinary seg time when Clatterbuck (officer) unlocked my door came in and raped me, then left and returned and threw 2 pks of Kool aids in my cell.

I turned him in to J+J - special investigator Darrell Parker promised my family he would never work on this side of the penitentiary ever again. And has been over there on several occasions since.

Also Officer Rhunke sexually harassed me, and kept trying to get me to have sex with him and offered to pay me with dope and came in on me in the shower when I was completely nude, I turned him into J+J - and they told Rhunke, left him on W-7 when I live and then he began to harass me mentally, tearing up my room talkin bad about me to other inmates. Called me a snitch + ect. So I got so tired of all this abuse I told em to just drop it all and I fully intend to take care of it when released.

## Box 21: The Zimbardo Experiment

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In an attempt to understand just what it means psychologically to be a prisoner or a prison guard, Craig Haney, Curt Banks, Dave Jaffe and I created our own prison. We carefully screened over 70 volunteers who answered an ad in a Palo Alto city newspaper and ended up with about two dozen young men who were selected to be part of this study. They were mature, emotionally stable, normal, intelligent college students from middle-class homes throughout the United States and Canada. They appeared to represent the cream of the crop of this generation. None had any criminal record and all were relatively homogeneous on many dimensions initially.

Half were arbitrarily designated as prisoners by a flip of a coin, the others as guards. These were the roles they were to play in our simulated prison. The guards were made aware of the potential seriousness and danger of the situation and their own vulnerability. They made up their own formal rules for maintaining law, order and respect, and were generally free to improvise new ones during their eight-hour, three-man shifts. The prisoners were unexpectedly picked up at their homes by a city policeman in a squad car, searched, handcuffed, fingerprinted, booked at the Palo Alto station house and taken blindfolded to our jail. There they were stripped, deloused, put into a uniform, given a number and put into a cell with two other prisoners where they expected to live for the next two weeks. The pay was good (\$15 a day) and their motivation was to make money.

We observed and recorded on videotape the events that occurred in the prison, and we interviewed

and tested the prisoners and guards at various points throughout the study. Some of the videotapes of the actual encounters between the prisoners and guards were seen on the NBC News feature "Chronolog" on November 26, 1971.

At the end of only six days we had to close down our mock prison because what we saw was frightening. It was no longer apparent to most of the subjects (or to us) where reality ended and their roles began. The majority had indeed become prisoners or guards, no longer able to clearly differentiate between role playing and self. There were dramatic changes in virtually every aspect of their behavior, thinking and feeling. In less than a week the experience of imprisonment undid (temporarily) a lifetime of learning: human values were suspended, self-concepts were challenged and the ugliest, most base, pathological side of human nature surfaced. We were horrified because we saw some boys (guards) treat others as if they were despicable animals, taking pleasure in cruelty, while other boys (prisoners) became servile, dehumanized robots who thought only of escape, of their own individual survival and of their mounting hatred for the guards.

We had to release three prisoners in the first four days because they had such acute situational traumatic reactions as hysterical crying, confusion in thinking and severe depression. Others begged to be paroled, and all but three were willing to forfeit all the money they had earned if they could be paroled. By then (the fifth day) they had been so programmed to think of themselves as prisoners that when their request for parole was denied, they returned docilely to their

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cells. Now, had they been thinking as college students acting in an oppressive experiment, they would have quit once they no longer wanted the \$15 a day we used as our only incentive. However, the reality was not quitting an experiment but "being paroled by the parole board from the Stanford County Jail." By the last days, the earlier solidarity among the prisoners (systematically broken by the guards) dissolved into "each man for himself." Finally, when one of their fellows was put in solitary confinement (a small closet) for refusing to eat, the prisoners were given a choice by one of the guards: give up their blankets and the incorrigible prisoner would be let out, or keep their blankets and he would be kept in all night. They voted to keep their blankets and to abandon their brother.

About a third of the guards became tyrannical in their arbitrary use of power, in enjoying their control over other people. They were corrupted by the power of their roles and became quite inventive in their techniques of breaking the spirit of the prisoners and making them feel they were worthless. Some of the guards merely did their jobs as tough but fair correctional officers, and several were good guards from the prisoners' point of view since they did them small favors and were friendly. However, no good guard ever interfered with a command by any of the bad guards; they never intervened on the side of the prisoners, they never told the others to ease off because it was only an experiment, and they never even came to me as prison superintendent or experimenter in charge to complain. In part, they were good because the others were bad; they needed the others to

help establish their own egos in a positive light. In this sense, the good guards perpetuated the prison more than the other guards because their own needs to be liked prevented them from disobeying or violating the implicit guards' code. At the same time, the act of befriending the prisoners created a social reality which made the prisoners less likely to rebel.

By the end of the week the experiment had become a reality, as if it were a Pirandello play directed by Kafka that just keeps going after the audience has left. The consultant for our prison, Carlo Prescott, an ex-convict with 16 years of imprisonment in California's jails, would get so depressed and furious each time he visited our prison, because of its psychological similarity to his experiences, that he would have to leave. A Catholic priest who was a former prison chaplain in Washington, D. C., talked to our prisoners after four days and said they were just like the other first-timers he had seen.

But in the end, I called off the experiment not because of the horror I saw out there in the prison yard, but because of the horror of realizing that I could have easily traded places with the most brutal guard or become the weakest prisoner full of hatred at being so powerless that I could not eat, sleep or go to the toilet without permission of the authorities. I could have become Calley at My Lai, George Jackson at San Quentin, [or] one of the men at Attica. . . .

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#### SOURCE

Excerpt from Philip G. Zimbardo, "Pathology of Imprisonment," *Society*, vol. 9, April 1972, pp. 4-8.

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**rape**<sup>1</sup> (rāp), *n.*, *v.*, **raped**, **rap·ing**. —*n.* **1.** the unlawful act of forcing a female to have sexual intercourse, as by physical attack or threats. **2.** any act of sexual intercourse that is forced upon a person. **3.** STATUTORY RAPE. **4.** an act of plunder or despoliation: *the rape of the countryside*. **5.** *Archaic*. the act of seizing and carrying off by force. —*v.t.* **6.** to force to have sexual intercourse. **7.** to plunder (a place); despoil. **8.** to seize and carry off by force. —*v.i.* **9.** to commit rape. [1250–1300; (*v.*) ME *ra-pen* < AF *raper* < L *rapere* to seize, carry off by force, plunder; (*n.*) ME < AF *ra(a)p(e)*, der. of *raper*] —**rap/a·ble**, **rape/a·ble**, *adj.* —**rap/ist**, **rap/or**, *n.*

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MONDAY

February 3, 1992

# The Wichita Eagle



**Sen. Gus Bogina, R-Shawnee, says he would like the state corrections department to revise its coed-prison policy because of the inmates' pregnancies.**

## NOW, legislators question state's coed prison policy

### 5 pregnancies among inmates at Lansing

By Hurst Laviana

The Wichita Eagle

Over the past six years, more than a dozen female inmates have become pregnant inside Kansas' only coed prison.

This year, an unlikely alliance of Republican legislators and Wichita feminists is pushing to end the state's decade-long experiment with male and female inmates in the same prison.

The move was prompted, in part, by five pregnancies that occurred

last year at the Lansing Correctional Facility-East. The prison houses 40 maximum-security female inmates who eat, work and spend their leisure hours with 200 minimum-security males, most of whom are convicted sex offenders.

"It's true, some of them get pregnant on leaves, but most of them get pregnant in prison," said Sen. Gus Bogina, R-Shawnee. "I'd like to convince the secretary of corrections to revise the policy."

Colleen Kelly Johnston, president of the Wichita chapter of the National Organization for Women, said she was particularly concerned that the female inmates are forced to

live with sex offenders.

"We see no reason on Earth why males and females should be housed together," Johnson said.

Department of Corrections spokesman Bill Miskell said the pregnancies and outside pressures have prompted prison officials to take a second look at their Lansing program.

On a national level, experiments with male-female prisons began in the early 1970s when federal prison officials decided they could rehabilitate inmates more quickly in natural settings that included males and fe-

See PRISON, Page 12A

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# PRISON

## NOW says women inmates are abused

From Page 1A

males.

When prisons began mixing men and women, they found, prison violence declined and inmate behavior improved. Then, nine months later, the drawbacks became obvious when women began having babies. Nevertheless, about 20 states have since tried coed prisons.

In Kansas, prison officials began mixing male and female inmates in the early 1980s as corrections officials were scrambling to find cells for a growing number of male prisoners.

With all other prisons full, they sent a group of men to what was then known as the Kansas Correctional Institution at Lansing, an all-female facility about a mile from the walls of Lansing's maximum-security prison.

Although the mix of men and women has varied over the years, the prison today has about five men for each woman. The men and women live in separate dormitories inside the 12-foot-high fence that surrounds the prison. Although some prisons allow men and women to hold hands, touching is prohibited at Lansing.

Male inmates caught breaking the rules usually are returned to an all-male prison. Female offenders usually are sent to the prison's segregation unit. Despite the strict no-touch policy, the prison has reported two or three pregnancies every year from 1986 through 1990. And then the five in 1991.

Of the 16 pregnancies that have occurred since 1985, Miskell said, one was the result of an affair between an inmate and a guard, who has since been fired. Prison officials think the rest were the result of affairs between inmates, he said.

Three of the 16 pregnancies ended with miscarriages and three others with abortions. Most of the women delivered healthy babies at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Most have had someone on the outside who was willing to take temporary custody of the child.

Although Bogina and other legislators have opposed mixing male and female inmates for years, their unlikely allies at NOW entered the fray in December. That's when the group's monthly newspaper, the Wichita Times, carried an article that sharply criticized the Lansing

**"The women incarcerated are dehumanized, reduced to sex objects, abused by the system and then released into society. The behaviors perpetuated on them while in this system are sometimes more heinous than what they were in prison for."**

*Marla Sikes,  
former prison counselor*

program.

The article was written by Marla Sikes, a former counselor at the prison, who said the male inmates were dominating, manipulating and impregnating the women.

"The women incarcerated are dehumanized, reduced to sex objects, abused by the system and then released into society," she wrote. "The behaviors perpetuated on them while in this system are sometimes more heinous than what they were in prison for."

Sikes also criticized the prison for allowing male guards to supervise women inmates — even in the showers and dressing areas. Sikes, who now lives in Wichita, declined to discuss the allegations in further

detail but said she was continuing to work with NOW officials in an effort to end the program.

After the article was published, Johnston said, NOW sent copies of the newspaper to every legislator in hopes that they would force the male inmates and guards out of the prison.

Although prison officials are re-examining the inmate program, Miskell said, the male guards probably will stay. For years, he said, male and female guards have worked together in both male and female institutions.

When the American Correctional Association visited the prison during a 1990 audit, Miskell said, there were 100 men and 100 women at the prison. Interviews with 17 inmates of both genders produced only two major complaints — about health care and cosmetics. The auditors found no problems with male guards.

Sen. Ed Reilly, a Leavenworth Republican, said the NOW article and pregnancies hadn't convinced him that coed prisons should be abandoned. But he said they have left him thinking that the program should be examined this year by legislators.

"This is not something that the Legislature decided to do," he said. "This is something we inherited. It was started without legislative approval from anybody. It's just kind of been there, and no one has questioned it."

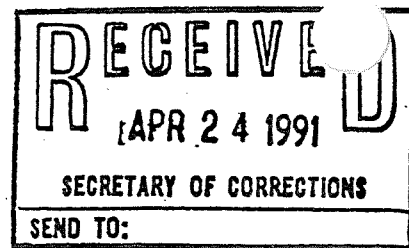
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THE DOCTOR AT L.C.F. GIVE ME 4 PAP SMEAR  
IN 17 day. The dates was from 11-6-90  
to 11-14-90.

(2)

In May 1989 Dr. Coonfield did  
aproximate 3 pelvic exams on me  
withia 2 months, first he said I had  
an tumor, then he said I had an cyst  
then he said I needed an hysteromy then  
~~he~~ When I refused to take another  
pelvic exam he took an Unwayliss and  
I was pregant, all along he should  
have been able to Tell that I was  
pregant through first exam. Also  
doing My Breast Examinations he  
pinches my nipples

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Advisory Board On Women Offenders  
& Mike Glotzbach  
5641 S.W. 18th Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66604  
23 APRIL, 1991

Steven J. Davies, Ph.D.  
Secretary of Corrections  
Landon State Office Building  
900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 400-N  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1284

Dear Secretary Davies:

We are writing this letter to you as the first formal recommendation from the Advisory Board On Women Offenders for the Department of Corrections.

Over the past year and a half we have met many times in both Lansing and Topeka. As a committee we have toured both sites intensively, have talked with officials and officers, and have talked both formally and informally with inmates. We have been exposed to virtually all the programs offered for women at both facilities. As a result, we have now developed a list of goals and priorities. This letter is to present our first recommendation, which we feel is of paramount importance.

There are approximately 265 female inmates in the state's penal institutions. Of this number there are approximately 65 female inmates at the Lansing Correctional Facility-East, about 38 of whom are maximum security, while the rest are employed by private industry. The rest of the female inmate population (both medium and minimum security) is housed at the Topeka Correctional Facility-Central Unit (formerly KCVTC or Kansas Correctional Vocational Training Center).

We strongly recommend that the DOC find a way to incarcerate all women inmates at one facility. We will discuss within this correspondence the problems we foresee with this, the ideological reasons for this move, and finally, the many advantages inherent within such a recommendation.

Several problems immediately come to mind. The logical place for the proposed combined facility is Topeka, since a vast majority of the female population is already there. However, two main problems exist with that solution. One, there is some amount of community concern about maximum security

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prisoners being housed at Topeka, even though in reality many of the inmates being evaluated at RDU are classified as maximum. Secondly, there is no existing maximum facility within the women's area at Topeka at this time.

The main ideological reason for this move is as follows. We are aware that necessity created the fact that Lansing Correctional Facility-East houses both sex offenders and the maximum security women. However, it would be difficult to envision a much worse scenario than this for effective rehabilitation of the women. Classic profiles of female inmates show a woman who is abused and overly dependent on men, with very little self-identity and self-esteem. To house such women with very dominating and abusing sex offenders seems almost like a cruel hoax. At best it is a very negative environment for the women's best rehabilitation. We have personally heard of more than a few instances where a woman chose not to partake of a program because a male offender on the premises told her not to. If the women are truly to maximize the benefits of self-esteem, relationship wholeness and addiction negation training, it must be in a facility removed from the perpetrators. The vicious cycle of victimization between the abuser and abused could finally be broken to allow healing and growth to start. Many of the mental health technicians overseeing the Lansing programs have indicated agreement with our concerns.

The federal penal system went to coed facilities for a long time, and have since seen the wisdom of returning to segregated facilities. This was done even when such obvious polarities were not present.

The practical reasons for this move are many. At the present time, the Lansing women have no substance abuse and limited programs in other areas. They currently have two vocational training programs; these programs will not be available after July 1st. In Topeka, many programs are available. Given the recent court attention to equality of programs for all inmates, it would seem the proposed combination would be a very good choice for the state, if for no other reason than to avoid further litigation in this area.

Though our group has no way of determining cost, it would seem fairly obvious that, after the initial investment, which should be rather minimal, there would be substantial savings. Said savings would result not only from the fact that programs would not have to be duplicated, but also from the economy of scale resulting from all the women being in one facility.

There is also the parity issue between men's facilities and women's facilities involved in this decision. Again we reference recent court decisions demanding equality in all areas, including programs, training and the like. Typically,

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due to far greater numbers of men than women within the system, decisions were made on the basis of what is best for the men's system, and it was adapted to the women's system. By establishing a separate facility just for the women, where decisions are made for that setting, it would seem that greater parity would result, when resources for women were not being divided among facilities.

The other outstanding issue in this proposed move is what should be done with the women working in the private sector in Lansing. We would recommend that a community based program be developed for these women, which would allow them to stay where they are and continue to engage in gainful employment.

In conclusion, we would ask you to consider this proposal as soon as possible, because decisions will have to be made soon with regards to directions, budgets, and the like, particularly if any kind of legislative effort is required. We strongly urge you to consider this proposal which is the fruit of lot of time and effort by many people interested in a quality female offender program for women in the State of Kansas.

The Advisory Board will be meeting at the Topeka Correctional Facility-Central Unit on Thursday, May 16th at 3:00 PM. We invite you to join us. If you cannot we would appreciate a reponse to this correspondence by that time.

Thank you in advance for your attention and concern.

*Mike Glotzbach*

Mike Glotzbach for The DOC Advisory Board On Women Offenders



(1)

This is a statement concerning LCF East, formerly KC12.

I've been in this system over a year. From the very beginning I seen officers harass inmates and show favoritism for other inmates. Within the first month of my incarceration I received three disciplinary reports not even realizing I was doing wrong. One officer says things are permitted, then another officer will write disciplinary reports over trivial things, such as walking the wrong way on the track.

We will get wrote disciplinary reports for disrespect, but the officers disrespect us continually. I seen a officer challenge an inmate, torturing her, just trying to get her to do something out of line. I avoid the officers as much as possible for the simple fact, they try to trick inmates into situations that are in question. The unit team and Mr. Rex Proff first believes the officers with out proff. Inmates have to prove there innocence and claims which is very hard to do. They refuse most grievances and threaten us with starting a riot. So we will lose our

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(2)

jobs and be put in, seq or a i t.  
work at heatron, which is just  
short of human slavery. Officers  
will write inmates class I disciplinary  
reports if we want to quit. There's  
many reasons to wish to leave  
heatron. One, discrimination; we are  
never eligible for a raise no matter  
how long an inmate works there.  
The citizen workers have meetings  
to discuss what rules are for  
inmate workers. Inmate workers  
get fired for poor work performance  
but in all reality, if they don't  
like you personally your bound to  
get fired. We are not treated as  
workers, we are restricted to special  
places of the plant. We are watched  
over ~~by~~ like hawks swarming  
over a dead animal. We are  
pushed beyond the average  
employee and down graded  
continually. Many officers have stated  
we don't deserve to work and make  
us targets for burassment. I  
personally experance this weekly  
no matter how much I avoid the  
officers.

heatron gives us infractions for  
being late, takes our points for  
13 working days. 4 infractions, your  
fired. We have no control over

(3)

our transportation, but yet we are penalized. I've only worked for Neutron 6 months and we sleep late to work three times. The lack of ~~organization~~ organization of the officers is out ragnous.

There is a schedule to be followed, but rarely is it, every thing from chow to church. The call outs are rarely on time, late ~~ly~~ continually.

The unit team + Rex Pryor UTM conveniently are scheduled to the hours we are at work and rarely are here for us. If we have a problem, to bad it has to wait. There is great frustration, mental torcher one has to endure to cope with this program.

The doctor gives Neutron workers one day a week to see him. I've tried to get help often and usually give up unless I'm in serious pain. The doctor is not respectable, reliable and literally no help. God help you if you get sick or hurt in this prison. I would not recomend this program to anyone.

They say we are work release, no

privlages, But they

take 1/2 of our checks weekly, forced to sign

estimate of  
LCT East

3-12-91

House Fed. STAC/AAK

Feb. 12/1992

IF YOU WANT TO TALK 2-30

START UP COSTS

Furniture	\$ 6,248.
Equipment	\$ 7,150.
Initial Reference, Assessment & Program Material	\$ 8,000.
Staff Recruitment & Training	<u>\$ 2,884.</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,282.</b>

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FURNITURE

(Estimated costs based on KCI figures or figures used in El Dorado Capital Outlay Plan).

ACTUAL COST

STAFF OFFICES

(2 OFFICES)

Desk - Double Pedestal - Metal ORDERED FROM BISMARCK	\$ 386.
Executive Chair - High Back ORDERED FROM KANSAS	225.
Tall Bookcase (36x72x12) CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES	205.
2 Side Chairs (arm) @ \$135/ea	270.
✓ 4 Drawer File Cabinet (Locking)	235. 2 @ 94.95 = 189.90
✓ Wall Clock	38. 2 @ 19.98 = 39.96
✓ Wastebasket	26. 3 @ 1.99 = 5.97
✓ Bulletin Board (4x4)	108. 2 @ 12.91 = 25.82
Coat Rack (wall mount) NOT ORDERED	\$ 60. ? 120. <sup>00</sup>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,553. X 2 = \$ 3,106.</b>

CLERICAL OFFICE

Desk (\$386.) w/typewriter return (\$228.) BISMARCK?	\$ 614.
Secretarial Chair (posture w/arms) ORDERED FROM	175.
Secretarial Chair for Computer Kansas CORRECTIONAL	145.
Computer Printer Stand (24x24) INDUSTRIES	103.
Computer Work Station (30x48)	134.
2 Side Chairs (arm) @ \$135/ea	270.
Low Bookcase (72x30x18)	190.
✓ 4 Drawer Filing Cabinet (Locking)	235. 2 @ 94.95 = 189.90
2 Side Chairs (arm) @ \$135/ea KANSAS CORRECTIONAL	270.
Corner Table INDUSTRIES	80.
✓ Wall Clock	38. APPROX. 20. <sup>00</sup>
✓ Dry Erase Board (3x6)	43. 23.94
✓ Wastebasket	26. 4.49
✓ Bulletin Board (4x4)	108. 12.91
Coat rack (wall mount) NOT ORDERED	60.
✓ Supply Cabinet (3x8x6) BISMARCK	\$ 210.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,701.</b>

GROUP SPACE

3 (three) 5' Folding Tables @ \$90.	\$ 270. 3 @ 31.95 = 95.85
Blackboard (4x8) <del>103</del>	103.
✓ Easel (70", Heavy Duty)	\$ 68. 118.95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 441.</b>

GRAND TOTAL

\$ 6,248.

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Not given  
to Dave

EQUIPMENT

Computer/Word Process/Printer	\$ 3,500.
Software (SMART)	500.
Typewriter	280.
TV & VCR	600.
Locked Cabinet for TV/VCR	650.
Cam Recorder with Tri-Pod	870.
Table Top Podium	130.
Mail Distribution Unit (6 components)	60.
Cassette Players (4 @ \$40/ea)	160.
Initial Office Supplies	400.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,150.</b>

INITIAL REFERENCE, ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM MATERIAL

Psychological Assessment Instruments (MCMI II, CAQ, 16 PF, Beck's Depression Inventory, Self-Directed Search, MMPI)	\$ 500.
Computer Assisted Psychological Assessment Interpretation (MICROTEST - basic package \$645.; Sentry 3000 Scanner \$3,795.; Interpretive Report Requests - Initial Supply; Maintenance Contract)	\$ 6,500.
Reference Books	400.
Program Material (Prepared/blank tapes, workbooks)	600.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,000.</b>

STAFF RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

Recruitment	\$ 1,200.
Site visit to North Carolina	1,000.
Staff travel (KCVTC - KSP) 18 trips @ \$38/one week of training, monthly meetings	684.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,884.</b>

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EXPENSE:

If implemented as proposed, the estimated annual cost to implement "Second Chance" would be as follows:

2 Mental Health Professionals Salaries	\$60,000.
Benefits (28%)	16,800.
1 Office Assistant Salary (\$7.25/hr)	15,080.
Benefits (28%)	4,222.
Office Supplies	600.
Program Material	1,200.
Staff Development	(800)
Start-Up Expenses (Furniture, Equipment, Reference and Program Material, Staff Recruitment and Training).	24,282.
Administrative Expense (8% of Salaries and Benefits)	7,688.
Management Fee (5%)	6,534.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$137,206.</b>

HF 3, SA  
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2-24

baby you tell me, since you have all the answers and know everything. I honestly think you are losing your mind. Case in point; do you think I am some kind of freak that I just have to have some pregnant pussy? No that aint even good enough, because let you tell it, "I fucked you, then went and fucked somebody else". I have heard it all and I know I aint crazy. You should have asked the bitch, "was it good and did she put her lips on my dick and suck my asshole too"? Don't write me no more with that bullshit and a matter of fact I want some names of these bitches, so if you don't write back with names [redacted] please leave me alone. I respect my woman, because I know if I call her my woman she is a bad mama jamma and this I do take pride in. I have principles about myself rather you want to realize it or not. I am not [redacted] you got me all fucked up. Can't no bitch on that hill say they had some of this dick, a kiss, letter or anything else from me. You are the "one" and only to have had this dick and then you even want to act like it wasn't good to you. Yuh I could of fucked anyone of them ho's up there and you wouldn't of never known, but that aint my style and you know they were trying to give it to me, that's how I got the nickname cold as ice and scared like a rabbit from them ho's because I wouldn't give them no dick. They talked shit about you, but I told them, "there was no way I was going to do anything to hurt you and yes you were my woman and meant alot to me". I can't stand too much more of this I'm letting you know now. So if you think I have done all this wrong to hurt you and



them has sucking they pussy and shit. Now what would I look like bringing you some shit like that? It hurt the fuck out of me to just have to stand there and hear that shit. It damn near shattered my ego, but my love + belief in you kept me strong. If I was only looking for some pussy when I first came there, then baby doll you would of been left out of the picture. Didn't nobody tell me, "you would give me no pussy": I take care of my own business for myself and what I might get don't mean the next person can get. Who told you this? Don't try to use that peckerwood mentality shit on me either, because that shit will put you in the funny farm. What sense does it make for a suave debonair handsome young man like me to move to the hill full of hot horny women starving for dick and I go to a pregnant woman only for pussy? Where in the hell is the logic in this sweetheart? I had the opportunity to choose for myself and bitches were offering to take care of me and I turned all that down and pussy too, let's not forget that, just for some pregnant pussy because you were easy and all I wanted to do was fuck. That one really is a joke. Do you have anymore that can top that one? I told you baby and I am going to tell you for the lasttime; "what you offered me from your heart is what united us the way we are". Baby "I love you" for what's inside, because that is where I know you to be the sweetest fine young lady I have ever met and I am crazy about your "crazy", I think you still have lost it.

use you as a sex object". Yeah those are his words. So now you have decided to side with him? The next time he write you, tell him, "he can suck my dick". So now who is the blame for these so-called problems we have? They don't tell you at mental health or second chance? You are not a weak little pussy either. Honey you are my wife and I want you to start acting like it. Believe me sugar, if I ever knock you down I am gonna be right there to pick you up and dust you off, because you'll still be mine. You can save that womens lib shit for somebody else, because I aint the one. Now don't get me wrong, because I respect every bit of your womanhood and I can't live without you. Do you feel like I have abused you? Baby if I can't have your mind, then just tell me, "what the fuck am I gonna do with your body"? I don't pimp or gigilo, I make my own money, baby I don't need a ho. Me and your boy wonder ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ don't do shit together and your mind is so stuck on him, you call yourself taking the shit out on me. He is the one who fucked you and everybody else, left you pregnant, threatened to kill your family, said he didn't give a fuck about you or the baby and hoped yall both died and that fags treat him better than you could of ever thought about doing. He said this, not me. Maybe you were just lonely when I came along and needed a friend. Have you ever thought about that? Maybe you just used me to strike back at him to make

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2.38

[REDACTED]

LCF Box 2  
LANSING, KS 66043

KANSAS  
MAR 20 1991  
INSPECTOR  
NO. 4  
CLERK

WT

[REDACTED]

LCF Box 2 w+x unit  
LANSING, KS 66043

IN HOUSE MAIL

Dear [REDACTED],

Just a short note to let you know that you can do what you want. I don't care about you or the baby you're carrying because you are trying to stick me and don't know who the daddy is. You need to keep writing Monte and let him or whoever else you was fucking in work-release take care of it because if you fuck with me when I get out I'll kick your ass til the top of your head bleeds. You need to keep messing with these country mother fuckers because they'd go for anything, but me, I'll beat the dog shit out of your fat ass bitch if you so much as look cross-eyed at me. I've got good plans for when I get out and I'm not going to let you or nobody hold me back so you just go home and keep me out of your mind and find a daddy for your baby by yourself. PEACE TO YOU & GOOD LUCK.

[REDACTED]  
E

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Tuesday  
3-12-91

Mr Sikes,  
This is the statement I wrote.  
I hope it helps. I really hope I  
get the chance to speak with you.  
I've been abused most of my  
life and turned to drugs + alcohol  
to relieve my emotional and  
physical pain. Dealing with this  
place on top ~~over~~ of everything  
else is beginning to take its  
toll on me. I didn't know what  
a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance was till [redacted]  
told me about it this week. I  
just need help, but I don't  
know who or how to get it.

I have to work over time till  
5:00 pm Wed + Thursday. So it will  
be 5:30 pm before I'm even back  
here.

I want this program, and it's  
very hard for me to admit I need  
it, more than I want to deal with  
my haunting memories of pain. But  
I am admitting it and asking for  
help.

Hope to talk with  
you soon

[redacted]

HFS SA  
2/12/92  
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Former prison therapist speaks out

## 'Women at Lansing dehumanized, reduced to sex objects'

By Marla S. Sikes, M. Ed.  
Special to

*The Wichita NOW Times*

In the spring of 1989, I graduated from Wichita State University with a Masters degree in Education, Counseling / School Psychology. In July, I was employed by Correctional Medical Systems, a company awarded a three-year, multi-million dollar contract to provide medical and mental health care to the inmates in the State of Kansas.

I was assigned to Winfield Correctional Facility (WCF) as a Mental Health Professional, providing individual and group therapy for minimum security males. In May of 1990, I was offered a promotion that included a transfer to the Lansing Correctional Facility-East (LCF-E). I was to research, design and co-facilitate an abuse program for female offenders along with a colleague, Margaret Weilert, also a Mental Health Professional from WCF.

The program, named "Second Chance," would be the first in the state penal system to view the offender as a victim. It would address the women's victimizations: sexual abuse, physical abuse and the battered women's syndrome. The program ideology was initiated by the LCF-E warden, Ms. Barbara Carter, who resigned shortly after Margaret and I arrived in

Lansing, July 1990. (Prior to our arrival, Secretary of Corrections Steve Davies had revised Ms. Carter's position to "adjunct warden," thus subordinating her under Ray Roberts, the men's warden.)

Before leaving, Ms. Carter explained the need for our program, saying that classic profiles of female offenders show them to be extremely male dependent.

"These women committed crimes for a man, with a man, against a man and because of a man," she said.

But the irony of it all was that they were housed in a living unit and sharing meals, educational training, recreational time, having babies by, and being dominated by the state's convicted male sex offenders. These men were rapists, child molesters and fathers who incested their children.

Margaret and I were stupefied, horrified and outraged. Who made this incredibly ridiculous decision to put the sex offenders with the women? And why the hell were we here? Margaret said, "This is like trying to work with an alcoholic in a bar." According to Ms. Carter, she had agreed in 1985 to let a handful of male sex offenders from the men's facility come to LCF-E to participate in the Sex Offenders Treatment Program. This was the only way treatment could be provided for the

few female sex offenders. Once she agreed to let the men come over, there was no stopping them. LCF-E had about 130 women and 150 men when Margaret and I arrived. And there had been a small group of men at LCF-East since 1981.

LCF-E was now under the control of the men's prison and all directives would come from Ray Roberts' administration, all men. The staff hours were 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Therefore, the correctional officers (guards) could run the unit at their discretion for 16 hours. However, during day hours they had appointed a unit team manager as the unofficial administrator.

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lation. Our supervisor further explained that the DOC would look as though it condones sex between the inmates if they provided birth control. Margaret and I screamed that they were condoning sex just by the mere fact that they were housed together.

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# 'Women at Lansing'

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To summarize: adult men and women are housed together, they are not provided any birth control or safe sex methods, they are told not to have sex and punished if they do.

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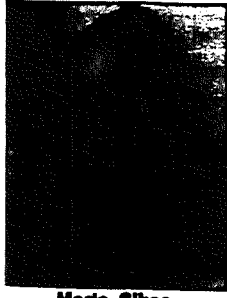
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Maria Sikes

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He was yelling and cussing at us. He accused us of pitting staff against staff in front of an inmate, something he would not tolerate. I said, "I thought we were supposed to call you 'God'." Margaret and I thought he was going to have a heart attack; he ordered us out of his office. And to this day we still laugh at the expression that was on his face.

November had arrived and the group was coming to an end. Margaret and I came to the same conclusion: that we were token women in a token position. We were in a double-bind professionally and ethically. The women were receiving the brunt of our endeavors. Margaret chose to resign when the group ended and I chose to stay until the contract ended July 1, 1991.

After Margaret left, I was contacted twice by our supervisor who said they wanted to force women to take "Second Chance." I defended our position and the women's right to choose. But the stress of it all was starting to take its toll on me. I had pneumonia by Thanksgiving and an ulcerated colon by New Year's. The groups continued and the stories were the same. And several women were looking very pregnant. Two women were pregnant before they arrived at LCF-East and the other five were impregnated while incarcerated. Four of the women were pregnant by male sex offenders and one was pregnant by a

guard. Out of the five women pregnant I was told one had an abortion and one was paroled pregnant. When the women turn up pregnant, they are put in "seg" for committing a sex act, the time determined by the warden's administration.

I asked the unofficial administrator why this guard was still at LCF-East collecting his salary? Why hasn't he been fired and had charges filed against him? I was told that they could not prove he was the father. The inmate would have to come forward with that information. The guard resigned a few months later. He went to the administrators at the men's prison and admitted being the father; he also asked for visitation. It is against DOC rules for an employee to visit the facility they were assigned to—one year must elapse from their termination or resignation date. He took custody of the baby and was given permission to bring the baby to the prison.

It seemed to me that this man was being praised for his virility and abusing his power as a guard. This woman was punished for committing a sex act and the guard that impregnated her was the one that packed her belongings and escorted her to "seg."

One of the women pregnant by a male sex offender volunteered for "Second Chance." This was her second pregnancy while incarcerated. When she was impregnated in 1983, she was put in "seg" for 45 days. The inmate who impregnated her was paroled. For this pregnancy, she was sent to "seg" for seven days and the inmate that impregnated her was sent back to the men's prison.

It is my understanding that the women have 24 hours after giving birth to assign someone custody. If that is not possible then the baby becomes a ward of the state and up for adoption or foster care. Abortions are supposed to be an option. However, the woman has to pay for it. That is difficult to do when the women only make \$7 to \$9 a month.

Lt. "God." One woman in group told me that he and six other guards took her to a classroom late one night. Lt. "God" pinned her up against the wall and tried and provoke her into fighting him because she was gay. By the end of January, Lt. "God" was promoted to Captain "God" and transferred to the new El Dorado facility.

The lieutenant who replaced him also enjoyed abusing the women. Several women told me that he would approach them in the dining hall, slap them on the back of the head and ask, "How's my favorite whore today?" or "..... lesbian?" or "..... bitch?" One woman said that while she was eating her meal, he got face to face with her and said, "It's too bad assault and battery is a criminal offense, because I would love to beat the f--k out of you." And it was not uncommon for either one of these guards to be inebriated.

In March, I was asked to address the Advisory Board on Women Offenders. I spoke candidly and emotionally about several issues. This was a high-risk population for AIDS. They have multiple sex partners, there is homosexuality, a majority of them were IV drug users and they engage in homemade tattooing. We discussed the male guards in the domiciles. I also gave them two very good examples of how these women were having a difficult time being rehabilitated, and I was finding it difficult to do my job. One woman who completed the program had her arm sprained by her man friend, a sex offender. Another woman in group couldn't get back to group on time when the break was over. She was very busy in the restroom performing oral sex on the male sex offenders who were on their break.

I strongly urged this group of professional men and women to recommend that all the women be housed together. They were going to make their recommendations to the Secretary of Corrections.

The following week, I received a call from my supervisor wanting to know

what I said to the Advisory Board. She had been told by Central Office (Topeka) that I was talking about the DOC negatively and she was to tell me to "keep a lid on it." She also was upset with me because I had gone to three of the parole board members and handed them a letter written to one of the women by a male sex offender currently in a minimum facility and possibly going to Wichita Work Release. The letter contained physical threats. I was told that I could not do that.

During a group session in March, it was brought to my attention that one of the women was having sex with a guard. I confronted the woman and she denied it. She went to the guard after group and told him what I said. He went to his superior and claimed that I ruined his reputation. I & I investigated me. The investigators came over to LCF-East and interrogated two women, threatening to put them in "seg" if they didn't talk about me. I was on vacation at the time. The women were scared and upset. I finally spoke with I & I and told them what was talked about in group was confidential. I thought that would be the end of it.

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Former prison therapist speaks out

## 'Women at Lansing dehumanized, reduced to sex objects'

By Marla S. Sikes, M. Ed.  
Special to

*The Wichita NOW Times*

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(Continued from Page 1)

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Former prison therapist speaks out

## 'Women at Lansing dehumanized, reduced to sex objects'

By Marla S. Sikes, M. Ed.  
Special to

*The Wichita NOW Times*

In the spring of 1989, I graduated from Wichita State University with a Masters degree in Education, Counseling / School Psychology. In July, I was employed by Correctional Medical Systems, a company awarded a three-year, multi-million dollar contract to provide medical and mental health care to the inmates in the State of Kansas.

I was assigned to Winfield Correctional Facility (WCF) as a Mental Health Professional, providing individual and group therapy for minimum security males. In May of 1990, I was offered a promotion that included a transfer to the Lansing Correctional Facility-East (LCF-E). I was to research, design and co-facilitate an abuse program for female offenders along with a colleague, Margaret Weilert, also a Mental Health Professional from WCF.

The program, named "Second Chance," would be the first in the state penal system to view the offender as a victim. It would address the women's victimizations: sexual abuse, physical abuse and the battered women's syndrome. The program ideology was initiated by the LCF-E warden, Ms. Barbara Carter, who resigned shortly after Margaret and I arrived in

Lansing, July 1990. (Prior to our arrival, Secretary of Corrections Steve Davies had revised Ms. Carter's position to "adjunct warden," thus subordinating her under Ray Roberts, the men's warden.)

Before leaving, Ms. Carter explained the need for our program, saying that classic profiles of female offenders show them to be extremely male dependent.

"These women committed crimes for a man, with a man, against a man and because of a man," she said.

But the irony of it all was that they were housed in a living unit and sharing meals, educational training, recreational time, having babies by, and being dominated by the state's convicted male sex offenders. These men were rapists, child molesters and fathers who incested their children.

Margaret and I were stupefied, horrified and outraged. Who made this incredibly ridiculous decision to put the sex offenders with the women? And why the hell were we here? Margaret said, "This is like trying to work with an alcoholic in a bar." According to Ms. Carter, she had agreed in 1985 to let a handful of male sex offenders from the men's facility come to LCF-E to participate in the Sex Offenders Treatment Program. This was the only way treatment could be provided for the

few female sex offenders. Once she agreed to let the men come over, there was no stopping them. LCF-E had about 130 women and 150 men when Margaret and I arrived. And there had been a small group of men at LCF-East since 1981.

LCF-E was now under the control of the men's prison and all directives would come from Ray Roberts' administration, all men. The staff hours were 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Therefore, the correctional officers (guards) could run the unit at their discretion for 16 hours. However, during day hours they had appointed a unit team manager as the unofficial administrator.

Margaret and I roamed the facility introducing ourselves to the women. We knew some of the men from WCF. Our general feeling was that the majority of male sex offenders did not want us there, the women did not need therapy because they had a man in their life, and the guards had a lot to hide.

We had many questions, which we began asking of our supervisor, a regional administrator with Correctional Medical Systems. We were told that the state does not allow birth control. Margaret and I wondered if the Department of Corrections (DOC) had ever heard of AIDS. All of our training and understanding of AIDS indicated to us that this was a high-risk popu-

lation. Our supervisor further explained that the DOC would look as though it condones sex between the inmates if they provided birth control. Margaret and I screamed that they were condoning sex just by the mere fact that they were housed together.

# 'Women at Lansing'

(Continued from Page 1)

To summarize: adult men and women are housed together, they are not provided any birth control or safe sex methods, they are told not to have sex and punished if they do.

The women felt abandoned by Ms. Carter's absence. They were being dominated by the male sex offenders and being pitted against each other. And Margaret and I were on our own to organize and administer "Second Chance." We were bound by the usual security rules of any facility. We were to report any inmate abusing substances, any we considered an escape risk, any expressing homicidal or suicidal ideation, and anyone sexually involved with an employee. Of course this last rule is unwritten. Our supervisor's advice was for us not to make "militant" women out of them.

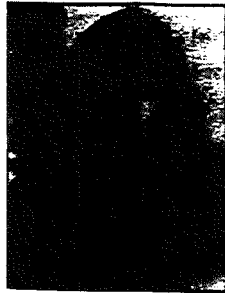
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"Second Chance" was a volunteer program because, ethically, we could not force the women to talk about their abuse. So we chose 12 women for eight weeks of intensive group therapy from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The women that volunteered were jeered at and called names. Soon the women, Margaret, and I, and the program itself were labeled lesbian.

As the group progressed and the women began to feel safe, they shared with us their experiences of abuse as children and as women. They also told us about their experiences in prison.

The women complained about the medical care. They did not like the doctor and they would rather suffer through their health problems than visit him. A few women stated that after their pelvic exams they were in pain. When they went to see him for an ailment such as a headache, upset stomach or sore toe, he would want to do a pelvic. One woman said she had three pelvis in two weeks. In all of the groups, the complaints were the same. He sometimes did examinations without a nurse present and he made comments. One woman stated: "He said I was beautiful inside; most of the women he sees look like hamburger."

We were told of a male guard who would come into the women's rooms at night and expose his penis. Other women in the group realized they were victimized by him in the same manner. The women complained about his behavior by filing grievances which were sent to Internal Investigations (I & I), located at the men's prison and comprised of guards out of uniform. According to the women, I & I blamed them for the guard's behavior. They were criticized about their hair, make-up and clothing. In other words, they had brought it on themselves. They were also told that the only solution was for them to volunteer to be wired and try to seduce the guard back into the situation so they could catch him in the act. None of the women were willing to do this for fear of prostitution charges. Thus the guard was "rotated" out of the unit, only to return a few months later.



Maria Sikes

I was told about another guard who was bringing money into LCF-East by buying a woman's soiled underwear. This same guard was asked to "jig" (be a lookout) for one of the women so that she could be alone with her boyfriend. He agreed on the condition that she perform oral sex on him. She did, and he let them go into the closet. He then wrote a disciplinary report, charging them with a sex act. She was sent to "seg" (segregation).

Most of the women do not have anyone on the outside to help them with money, necessity items or clothing. This sets up the women to be manipulated sexually by the sex offenders and guards.

The women told Margaret and me that the state issues four to five pairs of panties for a seven-day week (for the indigent women). And none of the women are allowed to hand-wash their lingerie. They

told us it was humiliating when they menstruated and had to go to laundry for clean panties. The guard on duty wanted to see the ones they had soiled before he would give

them a clean pair.

It was standard procedure for male guards to watch the women dress, shower and use the toilet. And it was not uncommon for the guards to make derogatory comments or try to "pat them down." One guard would hold his keys so the women could not hear him approaching.

Margaret and I were outraged and shared this information with our supervisor. We asked that the doctor, also employed by Correctional Medical Systems, be audited or investigated. No action was ever taken. In essence, we were told that it was the inmate's word against the doctor and the guards. These women were "just inmates, and inmates lie."

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The guards viewed Margaret and me as "coddlers" and the staff viewed us as "trouble makers." Even our supervisor was getting nervous because we kept asking questions and advocating for the women. The women were being punished for trying to better themselves. The women's rooms were often ransacked by the "shakedown" team (goon squad) sent from the men's prison. Their journals and our program materials were usually confiscated. Margaret and I were getting harassed overtly and we had a feeling that it was going to get worse.

During one of our group sessions, it had been brought to our attention that the second shift lieutenant had given all inmates the "direct order" to call him "God." A few days later, a woman came to my office crying because he had threatened to put her in "seg" if she did not "snitch" on the inmates who were giving and receiving homemade tattoos. He noticed that she had recently been tattooed on the ankle. Homemade tattooing is done with a needle, safety pin or guitar string. She was scared of "seg" and he knew it. She also feared retribution from the other inmates if she "snitched." She knew she was in a double-bind—something she had learned in group therapy. I asked her if "God" was on duty. Evidently, another guard was listening to our conversation and Margaret and I were ordered to his office.

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Testimony of Colleen Kelly Johnston  
President of the Wichita chapter of  
The National Organization For Women  
Before House Federal and State Affairs Committee  
February 12, 1992

Chairperson Sebelius, Vice-Chair Krehbiel, Minority leader Baker and legislators. I thank you for allowing me an opportunity to testify on this subject.

When I as president of the Wichita chapter of the National Organization For Women sent copies of Ms. Sikes' article in our Wichita NOW Times with a cover letter, I hoped for some response. Since the first phone calls from Rep. Baker and Sen. Bogina we have been gratified at the concern. When a call from Rep. Wagnon's office informed me that your committee would hold hearings on this miscarriage of justice, it became readily apparent that many members of the legislature care and care deeply about this situation.

As does the public. I have visited with them on Mary Beal's talk radio show on KNSS Wichita. Usually the public, or at least those who listen to afternoon talk radio, does not agree with NOW positions. But on the show where the Lansing coed program was discussed, no one disagreed.

I also bring you copies of an editorial which ran in the Wichita Eagle the day after its headline article. This editorial reads, ". . . there is no earthly reason" for such a system to exist.

As you have learned from Marla Sikes, many abuses have occurred at Lansing. And there is no excuse for them to have happened. I am trained and educated as a sociologist and have completed the course work for a Master's degree in that field, but anyone with only common sense should have been able to see what would occur when female prisoners were forced to mix with male sex offenders. Anyone with any sense at all, and no ulterior motives, could have seen what would occur if female prisoners were mixed with any male prisoners. This doesn't require a high IQ or special training.

And the state is doing itself no favors here. A prison official was quoted in the Wichita Eagle saying that violence had been reduced since the start of the coed relationship. It may be that violence among men was reduced but obviously violence against women was increased.

And the real sufferers were the children born out of these confrontations. Born in prison, shuttled to state facilities, losing their mother, as well as not having a father - with little

House Federal & State Affairs  
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chance of adoption. What kind of a start to life is that?

And Marla has already told you what kind of a chance these single mothers have on getting out of prison - very little.

The only ones who benefit from this program are men, and the benefit is at the expense of women. From NOW's point of view this is not unusual; but it is wrong.

I will make this very simple. I have come before you today on behalf of my membership and the women interned at Lansing to ask you to do three things.

1. We want the coed system stopped. And we want it stopped as soon as humanly possible.

We do not believe that this means in a year. The first step should be to remove the male sex offenders from exposure to these women.

No one better than I understands the political ramifications of this request. There are prison overcrowding problems, and few places to move women maximum security prisoners.

But the program can be stopped at Lansing by simply removing all male prisoners from the women's unit. And it must be done.

2. We want the male guards moved out of contact with the women prisoners except at gates and we want female guards moved out of contact with male prisoners except at gates.

I was told by Rep. Tom Love that when he inquired about this practice after receiving NOW's letter and newspaper, he was informed it would violate the civil rights of the male guards to deny them access to female prisoners toilet and shower rooms!

Apparently this is not a violation in North Carolina. Are we saying that civil rights are different in North Carolina than in Kansas?

We think not!

3. And we ask for controls on medical examinations for female prisoners so that pelvic and other physical exams are not merely repeated excuses for the sexual titillation of others. Persons conducting exams on that basis should not have a license from anyone to be masquerading as a medical professional or paraprofessional.

No one is claiming here that prisoners are angels. These wmen are felons and have few rights while incarcerated. We know some women, as well as men, use sex as a tool to get favors and physical release. But why create a situation where sexual intercourse between males and females is easy and usual? Does this do anyone other than the men a favor? Does this make the Second Chance program work better? Does this make the tax dollars spent at Lansing more useful or credible?

We speak to you, then, also as taxpayers, and we ask you why set up a program like Second Chance and condemn it (and therefore the tax money which finances it) to the trash bin!

What needs to be corrected is a system that is designed for failure, a system in which women who are being counseled to try and help them overcome the sexual abuses that occurred earlier in their lives, are put in a situation where they are subject to sexual intimidation, harassment and attack by male prisoners and guards. And the women get pregnant - or are taken to have abortions. And then the taxpayer, as well as the woman, pays. For how many people are breaking their necks to adopt a baby born in prison?

We ask you to order a stop to the coed exposure. We ask you to give this very good Second Chance program a good chance to succeed. We ask you to prevent women being exposed to sexual attack and intimidation. We ask a control on pelvic exams so that they will not be used only to titillate the sexual fancy of someone.

We ask it be done - and we ask it be done now!

Thank you for your interest and concern.



Working For Equal Rights For Women

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COLLEEN KELLY JOHNSTON

**4A** THE WICHITA EAGLE Tuesday, February 4, 1992

# The Wichita Eagle

*Established 1872**Incorporating The Wichita Beacon**Reid Ashe, Publisher***Davis Merritt, Jr.**  
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## Coed prison Kansas must look again at policy and then stop it

In the 1970s federal officials began experimenting with putting male and female prisoners in the same facility. Studies have shown that in some cases the arrangement has improved inmate behavior. In the 1980s Kansas began housing both sexes at the prison in Lansing as a means to deal with prison overcrowding. What happened is that there have been 16 prison pregnancies at Lansing since 1985.

Sen. Gus Bogina, R-Shawnee, wants the corrections department to revise its coed-prison policy. Department spokesman Bill Miskell has said prison officials should take a second look at the program.

Look or no look, the situation should stop. Currently at Lansing there are 40 maximum-security female inmates and 200 minimum-security males. Most of the men are sex offenders. That's right — most are sex offenders. There are five men to every woman. They work, eat and spend leisure hours together. And in the last six years, 16 of the women got pregnant.

Some prisoners — male and female — may think the current arrangement is swell. Some may even behave better in a coed prison. Some women who got pregnant may have agreed to sex.

None of that means much, however, when there are 16 pregnancies at the prison, the costs of which are most certainly paid by the state. None of that means much, however, if any of the 40 women had to endure the unwanted sexual demands of another prisoner. The irony is that some of those women prisoners are at Lansing because of crimes they committed against abusive partners.

It's difficult to believe that any of the positives that come out of coed prisons outweigh the fact that 16 women were impregnated at Lansing. National Organization for Women leader Colleen Kelly Johnston of Wichita is absolutely right. There's "no reason on Earth why males and females" should be imprisoned together.

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